



BUDGET COMMITTEE
Town of Hollis
Seven Monument Square
Hollis, New Hampshire 03049
Tel. 465-2209 FAX 465-3701

Minutes of April 26, 2011

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Chris Hyde, Chairman at 7:00 PM.

Members present: Chris Hyde, Chairman; Mike Harris, Frank Whittemore, Tom Jambard, Peter Band

Also present: Rob Mann – Hollis School Board

Review of Minutes

Feb. 9, 2011 Chris H. changed the wording on page 1 to read "This survey adjusts for valuation". Mike H. moved to accept the minutes as amended, Frank W. seconded. All present voted in favor, Rob M. abstained. Minutes accepted.

Mar. 14, 2011 Chris H. suggested adding some additional language regarding the amendment of Article 4. Mike H. moved to accept the minutes as amended, Tom J. seconded. All present voted in favor, Frank W. abstained. Minutes accepted.

Mar. 22, 2011 Chris H. read the alterations suggested by Mike H. No other corrections were put forth. Mike H. moved to accept the minutes as amended, Peter B. second. All present voted in favor, Rob M. abstained. Minutes accepted.

Tom J. inquired about non-public minutes. Tom G., who is the secretary, was not in attendance. Chris H. said he will contact Tom G. about writing something up for the non-public session.

Public Input

None

Town Report

Peter B. discussed the selectmen's review of the year-to-date financials and said that everything is tracking on schedule. Tax liens were placed on uncollected 2010 taxes. The total was roughly \$320K, which is not significantly higher than what liens have been running over the last several years. The transition to the LGC health plan has gone well. It appears at this point that the cost due to run-out of the self-insured plan may be lower than originally anticipated. The Ash St. Sidewalk Project contract has been signed and work has been started. The project is due to finish up mid-July. Peter B. mentioned that Chief Ux is retiring at the end of May, and Jay Sartell is being promoted into the chief position. Chris H. asked what the pay differential is and whether any savings will be realized in the PD payroll. Peter B. did not know offhand but will find out.

A tax anticipation note has been arranged through Lake Sunapee Bank in the event that the town needs to borrow money to cover accounts payable until tax revenues begin to come in. It is anticipated that this will not be needed, but the town wanted to have the safety net in place.

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Chris H. asked whether the BudComm could be provided with some of the financial and cash flow issues at their next meeting. Peter B. noted that there is some flexibility in timing of payments to the schools that has been taken advantage of. This has been done in prior years as well, to help with cash flow just prior to tax time.

Chris H. mentioned the \$1MM CD, and asked how it is accounted for in the balance sheet. Peter B. said he would get Doug S. (the interim finance officer) to answer that question.

Peter B. stated that the Nichols Fund (fields and grounds maintenance) return on investment has been declining over the last few years, and it is expected that the expenses will be underfunded within the next few years. The shortfall will need to be made up by the town budget at that point.

School Report

Rob M. reviewed the status of the SAU task force discussions for pooling benefit sourcing. The task force consists of one representative from each school board, plus two coop budget committee reps., one rep. from each association, and administrative representatives, the total number being around twelve or so.

Chris H. asked to be provided with any sidebar agreements associated with the union contracts.

Rob M. stated that the open enrollment is June 1, so not much is likely to be accomplished for this year. He offered to include the BudComm in the review process, once there is something to show from the negotiations.

The unencumbered fund balance is anticipated to be \$138K after all known expenses are allowed for. Some of the funds may be required for additional study to resolve continued water loss from the school/town water supply system. The cost of this is not presently known. The BudComm asked to be kept updated on the status of the study.

Tom J. asked whether the SAU budget warrant article passed all three meeting votes. The answer was that it passed by a large margin.

Committee Updates

Mike H. mentioned that the benefits review committee has met once, but he was not able to attend. No minutes were available at present. He has not been notified as to the next meeting date.

Susan B. was not present to report on progress made by the finance officer search committee.

Chris H. noted that the selectmen are putting together a committee to discuss the way forward with the Farley Building. Mike H. volunteered to represent the BudComm on that committee.

Other Business

Chris H. talked about finding ways to get started on the budget process earlier. He will circulate an intended timeline for budget review before next month's meeting. This can be fine-tuned as necessary.

Mike H. moved to adjourn. Tom J. seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Kowalski, Tax Collector